

The After-Forty Baby

To the Editor, Eugenics Review.

SIR,—The following is an abstract from the *Daily Mail* of July 13th, 1956: "Fifty-year-old Lady Pakenham, mother of eight...talked of the fears of some women of the after-forty baby. Lady Pakenham said that she had read that the child of an over-forty mother might be very intelligent but physically weak. 'That is not my experience,' she said. 'My son Kevin, born

eight years ago, is the only member of the family to have won a running race. He is tall, very strong, and certainly above average intelligence'."

Lady Pakenham could perhaps tell her readers more about this most interesting subject, especially the figures for mental defectives, mongols and hydrocephalics where the first baby is born after the mother has reached the age of forty.

J. CAMPBELL.

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